

**Statement by Carol Brockmiller, Quincy Medical Group Chief Executive Officer**

(February 13, 2019) – On February 11, 2019 Quincy Medical Group received a joint venture proposal from Blessing Hospital offering a minority ownership stake to a select group of QMG physicians in the existing Surgery Center of Quincy currently wholly-owned by Blessing.

We welcome this outreach and are always willing to talk about our shared interest in improving care and services for the Quincy community. We will continue to dialogue with Blessing.

At this late stage however, we do not plan to withdraw our proposal, as requested by Blessing, for a standalone surgery center or to enter into an agreement not to compete against the hospital. We continue to believe there is a need for additional outpatient surgical facilities in the community, especially as we consider the recruitment of new physicians to the area, the growing trend toward outpatient care, the cost efficiency provided to patients and the aging population of our region. We also believe that our patients and the community deserve access to healthcare in a modern state-of-the-art facility as we have proposed.

As part of the proposal, Blessing has also shared its intention to lower current outpatient surgery rates at one of their outpatient locations, which stand approximately 50% above those we have proposed. What is clear from these 11<sup>th</sup> hour overtures is that competition is already at work. We welcome it and ultimately know access and choice is in the best interest of the Quincy community.